

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A self inking hand stamp, with a turning mechanism comprising:

a stamp plate carrier;

a stamp plate made from elastic material and adapted to receive letters or stamp characters respectively;

a plurality of engaging parts on said stamp plate carrier for engaging with said stamp plate; ~~and~~

a plurality of releasable stamp characters; and

a plurality of engaging parts on said stamp plate wherein there is at least one engaging part for a releasable interconnection thereof with said stamp plate carrier, and at least one engaging part for releasable interconnection with said

~~letters or~~ plurality of stamp characters, respectively wherein said plurality of engaging parts are formed by a plurality of grooves forming a corresponding plurality of web structures.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A hand stamp according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of grooves and said plurality of webs have rectangular cross-sections.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A hand stamp according to claim 2, wherein said plurality of grooves and said plurality of webs have square cross-sections.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A hand stamp according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of grooves and said plurality of webs have cross-sections engaging one behind the other.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A hand stamp according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of grooves and said plurality of webs have trapezoidal cross-sections for providing a snap fit of said engaging parts on said stamp plate with said engaging parts on said stamp plate carrier.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A hand stamp according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of grooves and said plurality of webs are arranged on the entire surface of the carrier or of the stamp plate, respectively.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A hand stamp according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of grooves form grooves parallel to each other and wherein said plurality of webs form webs correspondingly parallel to each other.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A hand stamp according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of grooves and said plurality of webs are equally wide.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A hand stamp according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of grooves and said plurality of webs are equally high.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A hand stamp according to claim 1, further comprising transverse grooves traversing the grooves and corresponding transverse webs.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A hand stamp according to claim 1, wherein the carrier is made of a dimensionally stable material.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A hand stamp according to claim 11, wherein the carrier is made of plastics.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A hand stamp according to claim 1, wherein the stamp plate is made of caoutchouc.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A hand stamp according to claim 1, wherein said at least one engaging part for releasable interconnection with said ~~letters, or~~ plurality of stamp characters, respectively comprises a receiving means for said ~~letters, or~~ plurality of stamp characters, ~~respectively,~~ which are formed on the side of the stamp plate that faces away from said plurality of grooves and said plurality of webs.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A hand stamp according to claim 15, wherein said plurality of ~~the letters~~/stamp characters are made of an elastic material.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A hand stamp according to claim 16, wherein the letters/stamp characters consist of a material selected from the group consisting of plastics or caoutchouc.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A hand stamp according to claim 15, wherein said plurality of ~~several letters~~/stamp characters are interconnected.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A hand stamp according to claim 15, wherein the receiving means have rounded undercuts.

Claim 20 (Deleted).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A stamp plate for a self inking hand stamp with a turning mechanism, which can be connected to a stamp plate carrier, the stamp plate comprising:

a plurality of releasable stamp characters;

a plurality of engaging parts with a first set of parts for a releasable interconnection with the stamp plate carrier of the hand stamp, and a second set of engaging parts for releasable interconnection with said plurality of ~~letters or~~ stamp characters, respectively, wherein said plurality of engaging parts are formed by a multiple groove/web structure wherein said stamp plate is made from elastic material.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A stamp plate according to claim 21, wherein the grooves/webs have rectangular cross-sections.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A stamp plate according to claim 22, wherein the grooves/webs have square cross-sections.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A stamp plate according to claim 21, wherein the grooves and the webs have cross-sections engaging one behind the other.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A stamp plate according to claim 24, wherein the grooves and the webs have trapezoidal cross-sections for providing a snap fit of said first set of engaging parts on said stamp plate with said engaging parts on said stamp plate carrier.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A stamp plate according to claim 21, wherein the groove/web structures are arranged on the entire surface of the stamp plate.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A stamp plate according to claim 21, wherein parallel grooves and webs are provided.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A stamp plate according to claim 21, wherein the grooves and webs are equally wide.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A stamp plate according to claim 21, wherein the grooves and webs are equally high.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A stamp plate according to claim 21, wherein transverse grooves traversing the grooves and corresponding transverse webs are provided.

Claim 31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A stamp plate according to claim 21, wherein the plate body consists of caoutchouc.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A stamp plate according to claim 21, wherein said second set of engaging parts comprises receiving means for said ~~letters~~/stamp characters are formed on the side which faces away from the groove/web structure.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): A stamp plate according to claim 33, wherein the receiving means have rounded undercuts.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended) The stamp plate as in claim 1, wherein said stamp plate comprises two faces, with a first face having said at least one engaging part for a releasable interconnection thereof with said stamp plate carrier and an opposite face having said at least one engaging part for releasable interconnection with said ~~letters or~~ plurality of stamp characters. ~~, respectively.~~



Claim 36 (Currently Amended) The stamp plate as in claim 21, wherein said stamp plate comprises two faces, with a first face having said first set of engaging parts for a releasable interconnection thereof with said stamp plate carrier and an opposite face having a second set of engaging parts for releasable interconnection with said ~~letters or~~ plurality of stamp characters. ~~, respectively.~~